To Whom it May Concern:

I wholeheartedly oppose the proposed settlement in the Microsoft anti-trust trial. The proposal basically rewards Microsoft for its actions and does little to curtail its future behavior.

The proposed settlement is weaker than the one that was discussed prior to Judged Jackson issuance of his findings of fact and his proposed remedy. If anything, given that his ruling that Microsoft is a monopoly and has abused its monopoly power has since been unanimously upheld by the Court of Appeals, the remedy should be even more restrictive than what was discussed before the findinds were released.

Microsoft is like a child. Unless the government sets and enforces clear boundaries on its behavior and punishes it severely when it crosses the line, the company will continue to try to circumvent the rules. That was the lesson of the earlier consent decree, which Microsoft never bothered to follow. I fear that this settlement will end with the same result.

Microsoft is an extremely aggressive company. It has already translated its monopoly in desktop operating systems into a monopoly in office productivity software and Internet browsers. It is threatening to extend its monopoly into Web server operating systems, operating systems for handheld devices, digital media players and a slew of other areas.

It is against the national interest for Micrsoft to dominate all of these areas. Already its dominance in desktop operating systems and office software has led to little in the way of innovation and an increase in the price of those components relative to other computer components.

The company needs to be stopped. Unfortunately, this proposed settlement will be little more than a speed bump in its path.

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